



Newsleak

South Carolina DHEC's Drinking Water Newsletter

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SC DHEC • Bureau of Water

Coming to a Mutual Agreement

Water /Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN)

By Ken Tuck, SCAWWA /WEASC Joint Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair

Leaders from various South Carolina water and wastewater utilities organizations and regional stakeholders recently participated in a workshop in Charlotte to discuss development of a mutual aid agreement and Water /Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN). The mission of a WARN network is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance for public and private water and wastewater utilities in the event of a natural or manmade emergency.

It is important that utilities be self-sufficient and able to fill the gap between disaster onset and arrival of government aid. Mutual aid agreements between water/wastewater utilities help fill that gap during times of crisis, especially when the utility affected has exhausted all its internal resources in response to the event. At the workshop, participants learned about WARN system benefits, support,

contacts, development, implementation and planning objectives.

Of particular interest were case studies and presentations from other state WARN system founders such as California, Florida, and the recently formed WARN system in Louisiana. The stories, histories and lessons

learned behind the formation and implementation of these systems are remarkable. The need for and effectiveness of these systems is undeniable.

Participating groups and agencies included

the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control, the S.C. section of the American Water Works Association, the Water Environmental Association of S.C., the S.C. Office of Emergency Management, the S.C. Rural Water Association, the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

One of the major issues participants will be dealing with over the next few

Continued on page 2



Industry leaders from South Carolina water systems discuss the WARN system.

What is WARN?

WARN is a network of utilities helping sister utilities:

- ◆ Prepare for natural or manmade emergencies.
- ◆ Organize response according to established guidelines.
- ◆ Share personnel and other resources by pre-determined agreement.

Inside this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| SC WARN System | 1 |
| Rate Maker Software | 2 |
| Drinking Water System Resources | 2 |
| Ground Water Rule..... | 3 |
| DHEC Contacts | 4 |



PROMOTE PROTECT PROSPER
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

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WARN

Continued from Page 1

months is the drafting of a mutual aid and assistance agreement that is consistent with WARN objectives. These hope to make the finalized WARN agreement available to all public and private water and wastewater utilities in the state. This agreement will be the foundation of the “utilities helping utilities” concept in South Carolina, and will result in quick response during times of disaster.

In order to provide more detailed information to state water and wastewater utilities and other interested stakeholders, the Emergency Preparedness Committee has planned a workshop for January 2007. Interaction and discussion between state water and wastewater utilities is critical to the success of the WARN program. Interaction between

participating utilities is also important in establishing lines of communication. This interaction will develop relationships with personnel that may one day be called on for assistance during an emergency situation.

The “Utilities Helping Utilities: Emergency Response Networks for Water and Wastewater Systems” workshop and planning session held in Charlotte on August 11 was a success, not only because it provided valuable information, contacts, and guidance to support our cause, but it also offered direction in moving forward with development of SCWARN. Participants are excited about the development of this system and need participation, feedback, and support to reach its goals.



Show-Me Ratemaker Available on Web

How does a small community with no paid accountants, financial planners or lawyers deal with rate setting when they've got broken pipes, new security measures, and operator training issues to resolve?

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources developed **Show-me Ratemaker**, a Microsoft Excel-based software program to make the job easier. Ratemaker can analyze a water or sewer utility's finances and help managers plan for the future by adjusting customer rates.



With moderate computer literacy, files can be set up and the entire process performed online. Local government officials, water and sewer district managers, and technical assistance providers will all benefit from Ratemaker. Visit the National Environmental Services Center (NESC) Website to download the program at <http://www.ndwc.wvu.edu/ndwc/Showme41Water.xls>.

Located at West Virginia University, the National Drinking Water Clearinghouse is a part of the NESC, which helps small and rural communities with their water and wastewater challenges. To learn more about NESC, call (800) 624-8301 or visit www.nesc.wvu.edu.

Resources

Stage 2 and LT2 Rules

The EPA has training available for the implementation of the Stage 2 and LT2 rules. On their Web site you will find information about Webcasts, train the trainer sessions, and other training opportunities designed to help you with the implementation of the Stage 2 and LT2 rules. Visit the site at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html#webcast>.

Source Water Protection

EPA has updated its web site to provide more information about how local communities can protect their drinking water - including a series of case studies about efforts at the state and local level. The guidance is available on the newly updated Source Water Protection pages at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/>.

Environmental Publications

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Service Center for Environmental Publications (NSCEP) announced that new digital services are available through its Web site. More than 13,000 environmental publications are maintained in the center's archive. Visit the Web site at <http://nepis.epa.gov>. Publications may also be ordered from NSCEP by calling (800) 490-9198.

Small System Security Toolbox

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) helps small water and wastewater systems improve their security. To receive their *Security and Emergency Response Planning Toolbox for Small Water and Wastewater Systems*, call RCAP at (888) 321-7227 or download a free copy at <http://www.rcap.org>.

Going Underground - All About the Ground Water Rule (GWR)

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to require that EPA take a targeted risk-based approach to require ground water systems (GWSs) that are identified as being at the greatest risk of contamination to take action to protect public health.

What types of pathogens can be found in water provided by ground water systems?

Ground water that is susceptible to fecal contamination may contain harmful viruses or bacteria.

What causes contamination of ground water?

Contamination can reach ground water sources, including drinking water wells, from failed septic systems, leaking sewer lines, and by passing through the soil and large cracks in the ground. Fecal contamination from the surface may also get into a drinking water well along its casing or through cracks if the well is not properly constructed, protected, or maintained.



What are the basic requirements of the rule?

The risk-targeting strategy incorporated into the rule provides for:

- ◆ Regular sanitary surveys to look for significant deficiencies in key operational areas;
- ◆ Triggered source water monitoring when a system that does not sufficiently disinfect drinking water identifies a positive sample during its Total Coliform Rule monitoring and

assessment monitoring (at the option of the state) targeted at high-risk systems:

- ◆ Implementation of corrective actions by systems with a significant deficiency or evidence of source water fecal contamination to reduce the risk of contamination; and,
- ◆ Compliance monitoring for systems that are sufficiently disinfecting drinking water to ensure that the treatment is effective at removing pathogens.

What are the monitoring provisions?

A ground water system is subject to triggered source water monitoring if it does not already provide treatment to reliably achieve at least 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation or removal of viruses. If a system receives notice of a total coliform-positive distribution system sample collected under the Total Coliform Rule (TCR), it must take a source water sample within 24 hours. The system does not have to take a source water sample if the state can determine that the positive sample was due to an issue in the distribution system and not the source. If any initial triggered source water sample is fecal indicator-positive, the system must collect an additional five repeat source water samples over the next 24 hours for each of the sites that was initially fecal indicator-positive. States can also require immediate corrective action to address contamination at those sites.

The GWR also allows states to require systems that do not provide sufficient disinfection treatment to remove 99.99 percent of viruses to conduct optional

assessment source water monitoring at any time and require systems to take corrective action. States may evaluate the need for assessment monitoring on a case by case basis. For those systems that already treat drinking water to reliably achieve at least 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation or removal of viruses, the rule requires regular compliance monitoring to ensure that the treatment technology installed is reliably removing contaminants.

What are the deadlines for completing actions required by the rule?

States have two years to adopt the rule. The compliance date for triggered monitoring (and associated corrective actions) and compliance monitoring is December 1, 2009. There are no timeframes associated with the assessment monitoring because it is at the option of state. States must complete their initial round of sanitary surveys by December 31, 2012 for most community water systems. States will have until December 31, 2014 to complete the initial sanitary survey for community water systems that are identified by the state as outstanding performers and noncommunity water systems.

The Ground Water Rule will apply to Federally Defined Water Systems (Those serving more than 15 service connections or regularly serving an average of more than 25 individuals daily).

The information in this article is from the EPA Web site. Find more information on the Ground Water Rule at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/gwr/index.html>.

Bureau of Water Telephone Numbers

Main Telephone Number
(803) 898-4300

Main Fax Number
(803) 898-4215

Local Environmental Quality Control Offices

Aiken Office.....(803) 641-7670
Aiken, Orangeburg, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Calhoun

Anderson Office.....(864) 260-5569
Anderson, Oconee

Beaufort Office(843) 846-1030
Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton

Charleston Office.....(843) 740-1590
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester

Columbia Office.....(803) 896-0620
Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield

Florence Office.....(843) 661-4825
Florence, Dillon, Marion, Marlboro, Darlington, Chesterfield

Greenville Office.....(864) 241-1090
Greenville, Pickens

Greenwood Office.....(864) 223-0333
Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield, McCormick

Lancaster Office.....(803) 285-7461
Lancaster, Chester, York

Myrtle Beach Office.....(843) 238-4378
Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg

Spartanburg Office(864) 596-3800
Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union

Sumter Office.....(803) 778-6548
Sumter, Kershaw, Lee, Clarendon

For Information Call . . .

Lead and Copper

Amanda Mol (803) 898-3794

Bacteriological Monitoring Program

Celeste Sugg (803) 898-4156

THM and SWTR compliance

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Radiological compliance

Idris Liban (803) 898-3573

IOC, VOC, and SOC compliance

Idris Liban (803) 898-3573

State Safe Drinking Water Act Fees

Martey Chaney (803) 898-3554

Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control

John Watkins (803) 898-3567

Permitting of sources and treatment

Shawn Clarke (803) 898-3544

Permitting of water distribution lines

Wayne Stokes (803) 898-4159

Status of permit applications

Patty Barnes (803) 898-3550

Disinfectants/Disinfection By-product Rule

Richard Welch (803) 898-3546

Consumer Confidence Report

Frank Dukes (803) 898-3988

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